

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

DLOS-04 /071 W

----- 067229

R 132135Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9798

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 8374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE, CO, BL

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON BOLIVIAN
ACCESS-TO-THE-SEA ISSUE AND COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN TERRITORIAL
WATERS DISPUTE

REF: SANTIAGO 5440

1. FOLLOWING THE AUGUST 12 MEETING OF THE VENEZUELAN CABINET,
FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE
VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN DISPUTE OVER TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE GULF
OF VENEZUELA INVOLVED ONLY VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA AND WAS NOT
THE BUSINESS OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY. ESCOVAR'S STATEMENT APPEARED
TO BE A RESPONSE TO CHILEAN PRESS REPORTS APPEARING IN CARACAS
PAPERS TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ'S OFFER OF GOOD
OFFICES IN RESOLVING THE BOLIVIAN ACCESS-TO-THE-SEA ISSUE WAS
NO MORE WELCOME THAN WOULD BE AN OFFER BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT
TO MEDIATE THE COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN "DIFERENDO". ESCOVAR
DISMISSED THE CHILENA PRESS REPORTS AS UNIMPORTANT SINCE THEY
DID NOT ORIGINATE WITH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. ESCOVAR
REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR HIM TO CONTINUE
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NEGOTIATIONS IN BOGOTA WITH THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND

THAT THERE WAS NOTHING CONCRETE TO ANNOUNCE AT PRESENT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH COLOMBIA.

2. COMMENT. ESCOVAR'S INABILITY AT THIS TIME TO ANNOUNCE A DATE FOR HIS NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE "DIFERENDO" MAY BE DUE IN PART TO THE CONTINUING INTERNAL DEBATE TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE GOV ON THIS ISSUE. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RODRIGUEZ ITURBE TOLD AN EMBOFF ON AUGUST 11 THAT HIS COMMITTEE WAS PRESENTLY GIVING "INTENSIVE" CONSIDERATION TO THIS ISSUE, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AND DIFFICULT." A SEPTEL WILL CONTAIN THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE GOV'S MOTIVATIONS FOR INSINUATING ITSELF INTO THE BOLIVIAN ACCESS-TO-THE-SEA QUESTION.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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